

"A City With A Future, Watch Us Grow."



Spring Edition

City of Groveland

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<u>Exe. Asst. to the City Manager</u>	x233	<u>Utility Billing</u>	(352) 429-2141
<u>City Clerk</u>	x231	<u>x222</u>	
<u>Economic Development Mgr.</u>	x225	<u>Police Department</u>	(352) 429-4166
<u>Community Development</u>	(352) 429-2141	<u>Fire Department</u>	Cherry Lake (352) 242-4908
<u>Finance</u>	(352) 429-2141	<u>Downtown</u>	(352) 429-1209



"Visit Our New Web Site"

We're on the Web!!!
www.groveland-fl.gov

Message From the City Manager



It has been a honor to serve in the capacity of City Manager for the City of Groveland over the past year. The City Council has exercised extraordinary leadership in guiding the City through some challenging times. With the goals developed and adopted by City Council; city staff is prepared to press forward with a "smart growth model of business", presenting 2015—2016 budget recommendation that hold firm at current tax levels, and improvements to city services through the use of innovation and efficiency.

City Goal

Establish a Sound and Sustainable Government Supported by Professionalism Progressive Thinking And Modernizing the Organization.

City Goal

Develop Maintain And Rebuild Safe, Clean, Diverse, Healthy Neighborhoods, Including Seeking Partnerships with the School District.

City Goal

Promote Quality of Life through Special Events, City Projects and Policies That Include Public Safety, Community Pride Events, Strong Citizen Involvement, Parks and Recreation Venues.

City Goal

Develop Inviting High Profile Visually Impactful Projects: Including Projects That Establish Groveland as a Destination, Gateway, and Brand and In a Way That Reflects Sound Use of Tax Dollars.

CITY MATTERS



"A CITY WITH A FUTURE, WATCH US GROW"

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring Edition

City Budget Sets City on Course for Healthy Financial Future

Planning for a new fiscal year begins shortly after the previous fiscal year ends. Typically, February starts the beginning of management meetings to discuss budget priorities in advance of the strategic planning session scheduled with Council in late February or March. During the strategic planning session, the tone will be set for the budget formulation process as Council and City Management will be asked to prioritize needs / initiatives which guide the city's vision for the future.

The results of the 2014-2015 budget deliberations provided funding for a number of initiatives that benefit the community; In addition to setting the city on the course for a healthy financial future.

The 2014-2015 budget funded a much need Fire Captain, which allowed for the first time administrative support in the absence of the

Fire Chief. This hire was made from within the fire department which allowed for the creation of a new EMT or Emergency Medical Technician position.

For the Police Department, the City Council addressed issues of police coverage in our continually growing community by approving the addition of 4 full time police officers. Our 2014-2015 budget embraced the idea of funding a vehicle replacement program by using a combination of selling our aging vehicles and entering into a long-term leasing agreement. The result is a new fleet of police cars and the replacement of an aging fire truck.

Another top priority of our budget was to compensate city employees with cost of living salary adjustment of 4%. This is the first increase in five years.

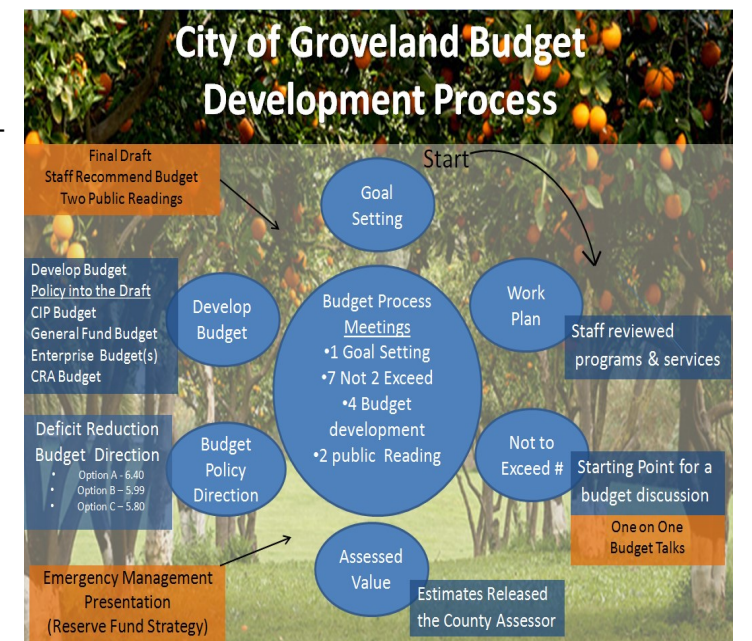
One of the most important highlights of the 2014 – 2015 budget was the start of a 3 year deficit reduction program; a program that is targeting maintaining our 5.99 millage rate over a three year period.

Holding our millage firm, exploring new revenue sources, and eliminating deficit spending will continue the journey toward making Groveland a "Premier City".

City Council and City Staff are eager to continue on this journey as we strive to make Groveland great !!!

Special points of interest:

- VILLA CITY DRI
- SOUND BUDGET
- NEW CITY WEB SITE



Villa City Development Regional Impact Review has Started

The Villa City DRI Application has been submitted. Villa City IA, LLC. represented by Little John Engineering has initiated the review process for the Villa City Development of Regional Impact ("DRI"); the project encompasses 5,564 dwelling units, 250,000 square feet of commercial/retail, and 204,000 square feet of office. The DRI will include a review and analysis of transportation impacts, and potential environmental impacts; such as, issues of water, wetlands, and wildlife.

Inside this issue:

FIRE DEPARTMENT	2
POLICE DEPARTMENT	3
NEW CITY WEB SITE	4
CITY MANAGER MESSAGE	4



**Fire Department Expanded Service
January 5th**

Approximately, six years ago the Groveland Fire Department began providing Advanced Life Support (ALS) services out of Station 95, located on State Road 50 in the downtown area. The addition of ALS by the Groveland Fire Department was just the next step in offering our citizens the best of emergency services. At the time we had two stations. Station 95 was our original and since it was in an area of greater population, ran the most calls. To have ALS service at each station would have required more paramedics than the grant allowed, so Station 95 was selected. With the recent improvement to the economy And subsequent influx of new residents, Station 94, located at Wilson Lake Parkway in the Cherry Lake area, has seen a substantial increase in call volume. As a result, the City began looking at ways to make Station 94 ALS. Through a process of personnel turnovers and the creating of a new Captain

position, we have been able to bring our paramedic staff up to the level needed in order to begin the service, but the preparation did not stop there. Expensive equipment had to be purchased, some additional training was needed, and compliance with Lake-EMS and the State of Florida was required.

“What is Advanced Life Support?” you may ask. Our Emergency Medical Technicians, or EMTs, are trained to several levels. An EMT-Basic is the level that all our firefighters have. This level allows them to respond to medical emergencies and provide Basic Live Support, BLS. Essentially, they are proficient at first aid, stabilizing and packaging trauma patents for transport, assisting paramedics and EMS crews, and performing good CPR on cardiac arrest patients. It is a good service and is the only level provided by a majority of fire departments, even large metropolitan departments. The highest level of EMT training is that of EMT-Paramedic. These individuals are allowed to practice advanced procedures on their own while in the field without being under the direct supervision of a doctor. They do, however, work under the written guidelines, or protocols, of a doctor, the organization’s Medical Director. These advanced procedures are call Advanced Life Support. They include, but are not limited to, using advanced airway techniques such as intubation and CPAP, administering lifesaving and pain medications, performing and interpreting ECGs for treatment of heart attacks, stroke recognition to facilitate early treatment for reversing and preventing permanent damage, and performing the same procedures on a cardiac arrest patient that would be done in the emergency room, although much sooner, allowing for higher survival rates. The ALS services are the same that are available on the Lake-EMS ambulances. We work in partnership with Lake-EMS in order to provide a seamless service to the community. Due to our proximity to our citizens we are frequently the first on the scene, and by providing ALS we are potentially able to administer treatment sooner, sometimes making a difference in a patient’s prognosis. As our community grows and our department grows with it, we expect to offer additional services that will truly help make our city a “Premier City”.



**New Vehicles, New Uniforms, New Equipment, New Professionalism
Groveland Police Department**

Top Five Safest City in Florida

Ranked by Safe
Choice Security 2014

“The City of Groveland
continues to be a leader in
the State of Florida as one
of its safest communities”.

Top Ten Safest Place in Florida

Voted by Movoto 2014



The Groveland Police Department has replaced an aging fleet of patrol vehicles with a new fleet of 2015 Ford Interceptor SUVs. Our aging fleet of Chevrolet Impalas was depleting our budget due to sky rocketing maintenance expenses, and the in-service break downs were creating potential call response time concerns. With maintenance expenses of approximately \$50,000 annually; and the estimated cost of \$198,000 per year for the next four years for vehicle replacement cost; and operating under the City Council’s “smart growth” model of business; the Police Department looked for other options that would meet the needs of equipping our police officers appropriately and being fiscally responsible.

This “out of the box” thinking allowed the department to enter into an agreement that offers the City of Groveland a lease/purchase program at an annual expense of \$200,000 per year over the next five years for 27 patrol vehicles. This also allows the city to dramatically cut its \$50,000 maintenance cost to an estimated cost of \$11,500 annually due to the maintenance / warranty plan that comes with the lease / purchase program. This equates to a total program savings of \$192,500; thus, allowing the city replace its entire patrol fleet for the price it would have paid for 6 new patrol cars.

Our “smart growth” model of business also incentivized the Police Department to find ways to better equip our officers. By leveraging the selling of our aging fleet the department was able to purchase new tablets with blue-

tooth keyboards, driver license readers, in-car printers and body cameras for the patrol officers. The new computer equipment will allow officers to be self-sufficient (creating a rolling office environment) cutting down back-and-forth trips to the station; thereby, improving response times and service delivery.

Bringing our Policing Services out of the 20th Century and into the 21st Century; and the professionalism that comes with it, has been a major goal of the City Council, the City Management, and the Police Department Administration. Creating new specialized units such as a traffic enforcement unit to handle traffic crashes, funeral escorts, selective traffic enforcement in problematic areas, and relieve the patrol units from having to spend time on these calls and allow them more time to handle more serious calls of service.

The department also created a Special Operations Team (or Street Crimes Unit) that will focus on specific crime related issues within the city such as drug related crimes, burglaries, robberies, gang related crimes and other violent crimes.

In the end, the Groveland Police Department has come a long way in a short period of time; and is a shining example striving to accomplish the city’s goal to:

“Establish a sound and sustainable government supported by professionalism, progressive thinking and modernizing the organization”

A smart growth model of business and a desire to continually improve is what makes our Police Department among the best.